

**The Princess Awakens** by hafedor  
Chapter 8: Inner Strength From the Great Beyond

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Allura started getting ready. This was not how she pictured her wedding day. She looked in the mirror, and saw herself in her mother's wedding dress. Tears came streaming down her face. She always knew that she would be emotional for her own wedding, but this is not what she had in mind.

The servant girls helped her get ready, and kept commenting on how beautiful she looked. All she felt was numb.

"Last night.", she thought, "I feel horrible, like I betrayed everyone. That damn wine, it had to be the wine. Why didn't it effect him? Maybe it did, and I just didn't notice. I tried to get control of the situation, and I ended up being seduced."

"Here Princess.", the servant girl said, "Let me help you with your hair, and your mother's tiara."

"No.", Allura told her, "I will wear my hair down. Please attach the veil to the gold tiara that he gave me last night. Also I have an ivory gown that's still formal, but a little more revealing than this one. I must leave him speechless when he sees me. It's the only way I can gain control. Besides, I couldn't bare to wear my mother's wedding attire. It just doesn't seem right. If I am to be a Doom bride, then I will look the part"

After the servants left, she looked at herself in the mirror. The ivory silk dress was reminiscent of an ancient goddess. This was how he always pictured her, she would not disappoint him. She then laid down on her bed, and began crying.

"Allura!", she heard the voice of an apparition calling her.

"Father?", she asked as his spirit appeared before her.

"Allura, you must be strong.", he told her, "Everything is going to be alright. You are a strong ruler, and you will some day lead Arus to greatness. You will do what I've only dreamed of."

"Father.", she cried, "I feel as though I've betrayed you, and my people. I was under a spell, and gave into temptation. I feel as though I have sold not only my soul, but the soul of everyone I love. Please help me, tell me what to do."

"Trust me Allura.", he told her, "Everything will work out the way it should." Suddenly his spirit disappeared. She reached out to him as he faded away.

“Father come back, please!”, she cried, “I need you! Yes, I will be a great ruler. I will protect Arus, and do what ever I have to do. I’ll do whatever it takes.”

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The main balcony, of the Castle of Lions, was decorated for the wedding. Lotor, of course, had no intention of getting married in the local church. Also, he wanted the citizens of Arus to view the wedding. This way they would know that he was their new king. He looked around the wedding site. It was perfect for his queen.

“Lotor!”, Haggar called, “I’ve been trying to find you.

“What do you want old witch?”, he asked.

“I was wondering if the wine worked as we planned?”, she asked him.

“Didn’t the guard give you the message?”, he asked back.

“Yes.”, she told him, “But I wanted to hear it from you.”

“It worked like a charm.”, he told her, “She gave me a night I will never forget. Hopefully she will start to desire me, on her own, soon.”

“I have a feeling she will, my king.”, Haggar informed him, “By the way, I have a special wedding present for you. However it’s not done yet. I will give I to you after the wedding. I want to make sure everything will be perfect.”

“Why can’t I have it know?”, he asked. He didn’t trust her. He knew that she would someday try to get even with him for killing his father. For all he knew she might try to kill him, or Allura.

“Don’t you trust me my king?”, she asked.

“No.”, he told her. She began to laugh.

“Smart boy.”, she cackled, “No wonder you are king.” She then walked away. Lotor watched her, and wondered where she was going. One of his guards, had been standing with them the while time.

“Lieutenant!”, Lotor called.

“Yes sire!”, he answered.

“Keep an eye on her.”, he ordered, “But don’t let her find out. My father had a guard follow her once. She used him to test how quickly a new acid she had created could completely eat through a living person. It took two weeks. He lived those the first six days.”

“Yes sire.”, the guard told him. For the first time in his life, the guard was terrified. All the training he had received could never prepare him for this.

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Allura looked out her bedroom window to the balcony below. The flowers were beautiful. Lotor had her servants set up everything to be perfect, just for her. Did he really think she would forgive him for last night?. She would marry him, and give into his desires. But she would not drink any potions, no matter how much it would make her nights with him easier.

She would rather be raped. It would be better then to be filled with false sexual desires. At least she would be in some control. He might have her body, but she will control her emotions. She heard a knock at the door.

“Princess!”, a man’s voice called, “It’s Coran!”

“Coran!”, she cried, “Please come in!”, The door opened and two guards escorted him in. They shut the door behind them, and gave Coran and Allura some privacy. She ran over and hugged him. She had never seen him look so handsome.

Tears ran down her eyes. He wanted to tell her all that he knew about what Lotor was planning to do with them. But he knew that Lotor would kill almost every living this on the plant, if she refused to marry him.

“I’m afraid it’s time”, he told her, “I have the dishonor of giving you away to that beast.”

“Is everyone alright?”, she asked, “I was promised they would all be there. I want to make sure they are alright.”

“Yes princess.”, he told her, “Except for Lance.”

“Lance!”, she cried, “What happened?”

“He was angry that you surrendered.”, he informed her, “He left the castle before they took control of it. No one knows where he is.”

“Oh, I hope he got away.”, she cried, “It’ll be alright, Coran. Father visited me. He said that everything would work out, and that I would make Arus strong. Maybe if I marry Lotor, I could change him over time. I know his weakness. It’s his love for me, and his mother. Maybe I can reach him. I have to believe it.”

“Oh princess.”, he cried, “I wish I could believe that, but I doubt you could change true evil. I have failed you, and your father. I was supposed to protect you, and Arus. I did neither. My life now has no meaning.

“No Coran.”, she told him, “I need you now more than ever. You have always been my advisor. I will do what ever I can to keep it that way. Father has never let us down. He won’t this time either.”